

Crop Weather Report

Issue: 06-07
Released: 2:00 p.m., MST, April 24, 2006
For the Week Ending: April 23, 2006

Issued: Weekly: April-October
Monthly: November-March



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Agricultural Summary

Heavy, wet snow blizzards occurred across many locations in Montana last week. Southeast and northeast Montana were hit the hardest by the snow, and several cities experienced downed power lines and dangerous road conditions. Nine locations across central and southwest Montana reported accumulating enough moisture, as of last week, to make this April the wettest on record for those areas. As of last week, twelve other locations are at their second wettest April on record. Great Falls has experienced its wettest water year since 1966, and its third wettest water year on record. Bozeman has accumulated enough moisture to make 2006 the third wettest water year on record. Ekalaka was the wet spot of the state last week with 3.63 inches of precipitation. Fort Benton experienced the high temperature last week of 80 degrees. West Yellowstone was the cold spot of the state at 9 degrees. Topsoil moisture adequate and surplus is 91 percent, ahead of last year's 67 percent and the five-year average of 54 percent. Subsoil moisture adequate and surplus, at 72 percent, improved from last week's 63 percent, and is well ahead of the five-year average of 30 percent.

The weather outlook for May 1st through May 7th is for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation east of the divide, and for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation west of the divide. Normal temperatures for this period are for highs mid 50s to the mid 60s, and for lows in the mid 20s to the lower 40s.

Field Crops Report

Some areas have slowed or delayed field work due to heavy precipitation over the last week. Small grain planting remains behind last year and behind the five-year average. Winter wheat condition has improved with 69 percent good and excellent, compared to last week's 60 percent, and is better than the five-year average of 39 percent. Eighty-eight percent of the winter wheat is green and growing, with only 1 percent still dormant.

Crop Table	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Yr Ave
Winter Wheat Condition				
Very poor	1	1	1	11
Poor	5	5	4	16
Fair	25	34	27	34
Good	51	46	46	31
Excellent	18	14	22	8
Winter Wheat – Spring Stages				
Still Dormant	1	2	0	8
Greening	11	18	9	27
Green and Growing	88	80	91	65
Spring Wheat				
Planted	14	9	35	23
Durum Wheat				
Planted	3	2	16	7
Barley				
Planted	22	12	40	31
Oats				
Planted	12	7	35	20

Soil Moisture Condition	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Yr Ave
Topsoil Moisture				
Very Short	0	4	8	17
Short	9	14	25	29
Adequate	73	69	61	50
Surplus	18	13	6	4
Subsoil Moisture				
Very Short	6	10	30	35
Short	22	27	37	35
Adequate	63	58	31	29
Surplus	9	5	2	1

Field Work Table	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Yr Ave
Days Suitable for Field Work				
Days	3.6	4.0	4.2	4.7
Field Tillage Work in Progress				
None	44	61	23	31
Just Started	22	25	23	27
Well Underway	34	14	54	42

Livestock Report

Heavy snow in concert with high winds caused an increased rate of calf and lamb loss in some areas of the state, and has impeded calving and lambing in those areas. Range and pasture feed condition continued to improve last week. Operators are reducing the amount of supplemental feed given to cattle and sheep, anticipating pasture will open up with the coming warm weather.

Livestock Table	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Yr Ave
Range and Pasture Feed Condition				
Very poor	2	3	17	n/a
Poor	7	10	28	n/a
Fair	39	42	38	n/a
Good	39	37	15	n/a
Excellent	13	8	2	n/a
Receiving Supplemental Feed				
Cattle and Calves	71	77	75	n/a
Sheep and Lambs	75	80	76	n/a
Livestock Grazing				
Open	84	84	81	n/a
Difficult	9	6	9	n/a
Closed	7	10	10	n/a
Livestock Calving and Lambing				
Calving Complete	87	84	87	87
Lambing Complete	69	61	70	68

Weather Information for the Week ending 04/23/2006

Station ID						Precipitation							
	Temperature			GDDs		This Week		April 1 to Date			October 1 to Date		
	Hi	LOW	AVG	B50	DFN	Total	DFN	Total	DFN	%NRM	Total	DFN	%NRM
NORTHWEST													
Alberton	74	24	45	7	+0	0.05	-0.16	3.12	+2.43	452	14.03	+7.63	219
Anaconda	69	18	41	2	+2	0.36	+0.01	2.40	+1.44	250	7.86	+2.61	150
Clinton	73	24	46	11	+4	0.24	+0.03	2.63	+1.94	381	11.84	+5.44	185
Corvallis	75	24	45	7	+0	0.18	-0.03	2.05	+1.36	297	6.55	+0.13	102
Creston	71	26	43	2	-5	0.04	-0.31	1.69	+0.65	162	10.44	+1.15	112
Deer Lodge	72	18	40	2	+2	0.17	-0.01	2.01	+1.51	402	4.82	+1.45	143
Drummond	75	17	42	5	-2	0.06	-0.22	1.40	+0.64	184	4.57	-1.05	81
Hamilton	74	23	45	12	+5	0.06	-0.15	1.30	+0.61	188	4.51	-1.91	70
Kalispell	71	24	44	8	+1	0.10	-0.18	1.58	+0.78	197	9.96	+1.61	119
Missoula	73	26	45	13	+6	0.07	-0.14	2.88	+2.19	417	9.37	+2.97	146
Olney	72	19	40	1	-3	0.00	-0.35	1.23	+0.21	121	14.21	+0.84	106
Polson	72	28	46	10	+3	0.29	+0.00	3.24	+2.33	356	11.69	+4.17	155
St Ignatius	72	31	46	5	-2	0.20	-0.14	3.41	+2.43	348	9.12	+1.90	126
Seeley lake	71	20	43	7	+2	0.20	-0.09	2.40	+1.46	255	14.37	+1.14	109
Sula	70	18	43	0	-7	0.12	-0.21	2.05	+1.09	214	7.88	+0.63	109
Superior	74	21	48	15	+4	0.14	-0.14	2.73	+1.85	310	10.59	+1.14	112
Swan Lake	72	24	43	2	-5	0.04	-0.34	2.50	+1.31	210	20.48	+3.23	119
Thompson Falls	70	27	45	9	-5	0.05	-0.30	1.52	+0.37	132	13.01	-1.95	87
West Glacier	72	23	45	5	+0	0.12	-0.30	1.12	-0.12	90	23.36	+6.28	137
NORTH CENTRAL													
Chester	77	26	46	12	-2	0.30	+0.09	0.84	+0.33	165	3.88	+0.96	133
Chinook	75	27	48	10	-7	0.42	+0.13	0.93	+0.16	121	5.13	+1.62	146
Choteau	74	25	43	4	-10	0.14	-0.07	1.42	+0.89	268	5.66	+3.16	226
Cut Bank	75	26	44	11	+4	0.09	-0.12	0.48	-0.05	91	2.07	-0.79	72
Ft Assinniboine	79	27	47	10	-8	0.64	+0.39	1.07	+0.38	155	4.46	+0.75	120
Fort Benton	80	26	47	9	-12	0.79	+0.49	2.01	+1.18	242	6.95	+2.00	140
Goldbutte	76	18	45	9	-3	0.14	-0.10	0.75	+0.10	115	4.74	+1.34	139
Harlem	75	28	48	12	-2	0.75	+0.53	1.29	+0.71	222	M	M	M
Havre	78	26	47	11	-3	0.45	+0.24	0.88	+0.22	133	4.21	+0.56	115
Malta	72	28	48	10	-3	1.01	+0.77	1.48	+0.89	251	5.12	+1.90	159
Rudyard	77	26	46	10	-11	0.43	+0.15	1.74	+1.07	260	5.12	+1.07	126
Shelby	77	22	45	10	-2	0.04	-0.19	0.87	+0.30	153	3.59	+0.65	122
Turner	71	29	48	9	-4	0.53	+0.29	1.05	+0.44	172	3.58	+0.34	110
Valier	75	24	45	11	-1	0.11	-0.12	1.43	+0.84	242	5.23	+2.27	177